THE ELEVENTH DAY.

Friday, the 8th March 1929.

The Assembly met again at 11-10 A. M. on Friday, the 8th March 1929.

145. Suggestions for the advancement of the Cheramars and other depressed classes.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Member, Nominated*) said that the people of the depressed classes were usually living in very insanitary surroundings. It was highly necessary that these people who formed the backbone of the country should have healthy conditions of life. The Inspecting Medical Officer and the Sanitary Commissioner should be instructed to inspect their quarters from time to time.

Full fee concession should be granted to the pupils of the depressed classes in colleges and technical schools.

Five scholarships of the value of Rs. 7 each should be instituted in each taluk and three scholarships of the value of Rs. 15 each in each Division exclusively for the benefit of the Cheramars, the former for the sake of the pupils undergoing instruction in high school classes and the latter for the sake of those in college classes.

Arrangements should be made for the free supply of books, slates, cloth and mid-day meals to the pupils of the depressed classes. They should also be exempted from the payment of admission fees. Two boarding schools of the middle school grade should be established at Trivandrum, one for boys and the other for girls, where board and lodging should be provided for 250 boys and 250 girls. Special instruction should be imparted to the boys in agriculture and to the girls in domestic science, including cooking, house-hold accountancy, sewing, laundry, etc.

Permanent co-operative inspectors and supervisors should be appointed from among the depressed classes in order to organise co-operative societies among them. Twelve more group secretaries should be appointed from among the depressed classes.

The Cheramar population of the State should, for the sake of representation in the public service, be treated separately either as Cheramar Christians or as Cheramar Hindus, but not collectively as part of the vast and heterogeneous Christian population. The age-limit for appointments in the public service should also be fixed at 30 years instead of 25 in the case of the Cheramars and other depressed classes.

Cheramars should be given representation in the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

'DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. John Joseph, the question of pub' health arrangements for the State is now under consideration and suggestions—the difficulties you have stated—will possibly solution when these changes are effected.

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It is not possible to give fee concessions or to remit fees in the case of students in colleges and technical schools, nor to provide scholarships to poor and depressed classes communities alone. So far as English high schools and colleges are concerned there are a large number of open and close scholarships which are open to students of the depressed classes. I do not know what you mean by exemption of pupils of the depressed classes from payment of admission fees. There are no admission fees for schools. It is not possible to supply books, slates etc. free because it will mean inordinate cost. In the matter of midday meals, the depressed classes children are not the only poor ones who have to be given meals, but there are many poor people who undergo hardship for want of midday meals. The whole question of midday meals was considered carefully and I found on examination that if midday meals costing one chackram per head be given to each child in school, it will cost Government about 37 lakhs of rupees a year. That works out to about 18,500 Rupees a day.

MEMBER: Such concessions need be given only to very depressed classes.

DEWAN: Even that will work out to between one and two lakhs of rupees.

MEMBER: That expenditure will pay in the long run.

DEWAN: It is outside the bounds of our financial possibilities at present. Equally impracticable is the establishment of two boarding schools for depressed classes of 250 children in each school. There are ample facilities for primary education at present in the existing schools, and for secondary education too.

In the matter of representation in public service, when the depressed classes are duly qualified, I have no doubt they will take their place. As it is, everything possible is being done to provide suitable posts for suitable members of the depressed classes.

I have no doubt the question of representation of Cheramars in the Legislative Council will come up for consideration when the community is ripe for representation and when the constitution of the Council comes up for reconsideration at a future date.

In the matter of the Assembly, your very presence shows that Government are careful to study the requirements of unrepresented communities as opportunity offers and occasion demands.

146. Concessions to the Pulayas in the matter of education and appointments in the public service.

MR. AYYAN KALI (*Member, Nominated*) said that full fee concession should be allowed for another ten years to the pupils of the depressed classes studying in classes VI and VII.

The fee concessions granted to Pulaya pupils should be stopped in case the pupils failed for more than five years in the same class.

Free mid-day meals should be given at least to Pulaya pupils in schools.

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